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Department of State TELEGRAM

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8987

UNCLAS SAIGON 13454

SUBJECT: GVN PROHIBITION OF ANTI-PRESIDENT NIXON ELECTION SYMBOL

REF: SAIGON 13158

1. REFTEL REPORTED THE DECISION OF THE GVN TO FORBID THE USE AS AN ELECTION SYMBOL BY LOWER HOUSE CANDIDATE TRAN TUAN NHAN RUNNING IN SAIGON OF A CROSSED OUT PICTURE OF PRESIDENT NIXON WITH A HITLERSTYLE MOUSTACHE AND SLOGAN "OPPOSE AMERICANS TO SAVE THE NATION."

2. THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION OF THE GOVERNMENT-PUBLISHED VIETNAM PRESS AUGUST 21 CARRIED THE FOLLOWING ITEM ON THIS MATTER:

2. BEGIN TEXT ALL POSTERS OF LOWER HOUSE CANDIDATE TRAN TUAN NHAM IN THE CAPITAL'S FIRST CONSTITUENCY WERE SEIZED AS A RESULT OF HIS "EXTRAVAGANT" EMBLEM.

(1) 3. HOWEVER, THE CANDIDATE IS STILL ENTITLED TO USE OTHER MEDIA FOR HIS ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AS STIPULATED BY THE LAW.

4. ACCORDING TO A COMMUNIQUE OF THE SAIGON PREFECTURE, THE GOVERNMENT HAD ORDERED THE CONFISCATION OF ALL POSTERS OF MR. NHAM, THE 85TH CANDIDATE IN THE LOWER HOUSE ELECTION IN THE FIRST CONSTITUENCY.

SAIGON 13454 8/21/71

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 1/26/92
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5. CANDIDATE NHAM'S EMBLEM, BEARING THE CROSSED-OUT PICTURE OF PRESIDENT NIXON, PRINTED IN HIS POSTERS WAS DEEMED AS HAVING SLANDEROUS CHARACTER TOWARD THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF AN ALLY OF THE RVN IN THE ANTI-COMMUNIST STRUGGLE.

6. SUCH AN EMBLEM MAY RESULT IN UNFAVORABLE INFLUENCE TO THE RELATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND HER ALLIES.

7. THE COMMUNIQUE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE CONFISCATION MEASURE DID NOT HINDER MR. NHAM'S CANDIDACY AS HE IS STILL ALLOWED TO CAMPAIGN WITH OTHER WAYS AND MEANS FIXED BY THE LAW.
END TEXT
BUNKER